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ACHIEVEMENTS IN WOOD-PROCESSING INDUSTRY, FORESTATION

DEVELOP WOOD PROCESSING -- Berlin, Aussenhandels Nachrichten, 23 Feb 52

In the wood-processing industry of the Bulgarian People's Republic, sawmilling leads in the number of workers employed and in output. Next come veneer, packing cases, parquet, and furniture manufacturing, in the order named.

At the time of nationalization there were 1,202 sawmills in Bulgaria, most of which were small plants. Only 141 sawmills could be spoken of as industrial establishments. The total capacity of all sawmills, on a twoshift basis, was 2 million cubic meters.

At that time there were also eight factories for plywood veneers with an annual caracity up to 25,000 cubic meters, as well as five factories for single-layer veneers with a capacity of 6.5 million square meters. The parquet industry had nine plants which delivered yearly up to 300,000 square meters of parquet flooring. Packing case manufacture was a function of various special establishments, as well as of special divisions at various sawmills. The total capacity was 10 million packing cases and up to 1.5 million barrels per year.

A substantial proportion of the annual production of wood is processed in handicraft establishments in Bulgaria, the main products being open-body wagons, barrels, furniture, and household and kitchen articles. In these shops the bulk of manufacturing is by hand.

The Two-Year Plan for 1947 - 1948 was exceeded. In these 2 years a number of new wood-processing plants were placed in operation. Sixteen furniture factories were newly established, and five veneer factories expanded and reorganized. The plan for the wood industry for 1947 - 1948 was fulfilled 165

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percent. The current Five-Year Plan (1949 - 1953) provides for further expansion of the wood industry. By the end of 1953, the production of the wood-processing, cellulose, and paper industries is to be 3.5 times greater than in 1939.

The development of the wood chemicals industry is of particular interest for Bulgaria, since a large proportion of the Bulgarian forests consists of underbrush, which is particularly suitable for chemical processing.

In addition to charcoal, the wood chemicals industry of the country produces turpentine, rosin, acetic acid, acetone, etc. The Five-Year Plan provides for an appreciable expansion in the production of wood chemicals and for the construction of new plants.

In capitalist Bulgaria, foreign trade in wood, cellulose, and paper products was very little developed. Products of this category were only 1.5 percent of total imports and one percent of total exports. Imports were limited to logs from coniferous trees; exports were confined to charcoal. Only the import of paper pulp reached 15,000 tons (an appreciable figure for Bulgaria) shortly before World War II. During the war, foreign trade in wood, cell lose, and paper products dropped sharply. After the war economic recovery led to a reactivation of Bulgarian foreign trade. Logs are no longer imported, and in the export field important quotas are filled not only by the traditional charcoal but also by finished products such as veneer, parquet, cut and steamed beechwood, barrels, and the like.

MORE LAND FORESTED -- Sofia, Otechestven Front, 27 Apr 52

According to Georgi Popov, chairman of the Forest (Economy) Administration of the Council of Ministers, 125,386 decares of land were forested in the period 1945 - 1949 and 41,265 decares were reforested yearly during this period. During 1950, a total of 401,750 decares were forested and reforested; during 1951, a total of 513,586 decares; and during the spring of 1952, a total of 466,359 decares.

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